

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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CRIMES ON THE INCREASE.

It is a lamentable fact that the United States is fast acquiring a reputation as a land of "murder." Those who have studied the gory statistics say that the record for the last year was 9,000, and that no other country had so many. In fact no other country had one-eighth of that number. Even pagan Japan is far behind us in this respect. We have twenty murders to one in Japan.

Generally two reasons are given for the prevalence of murder here. It is pointed out that the laws against carrying concealed weapons are not enforced. A handy revolver is an inviting cause to murder. As long as their sale is not prohibited there will be plenty around ready to commit murder. Even the possession of a revolver, for sale or otherwise, should be made a jail offense. The revolver is a public enemy.

It is also pointed out that in this country justice is not aggressive. "It hangs back as if it was afraid. It loiters, fashions, struts about, looks up the law in an acre of library and then the sharp need of duty grows dull and shrivels into a dead purpose."

This is true, but it is not the whole truth. Justice not only is tardy, but too often it is partial. A murderer without money and without influential friends is almost sure to be killed, while one who can command influence has a fair chance of escape. Further, justice is too often blind as to the proper object of the application of the law, and its findings appear to be arbitrary, without an underlying basis of principle. And so it fails to accomplish any useful purpose. Justice, fitful and spasmodic, becomes an object of pity, not of love or respect.

Not long ago the country was treated to the spectacle of mob violence and matter-of-fact law-defiance, in one of the Northern states. That is only one manifestation of the contempt for law and courts that exists and against which some remedy must be found.

The defenders of the peculiarly "Christian" institution known as the saloon have been exultant lately because government figures show an increase in the consumption of intoxicants. But there is little cause for joy when by the side of the liquor statistics are placed the figures that show an enormous increase in the number of murders and crimes of violence. It can hardly be doubted that one is the result of the other. In the saloons crimes are hatched. Over the bar stories are told of criminal exploits, of murders, lynchings, hangings, prize fights, and what not, that inspire the hearers to emulation. Over the bar the fluid flows that inspires to deeds of desperation. The saloon atmosphere is the proper medium through which the crime microbe is transplanted to fertile ground. They have spoken of the jails as schools of crime. They are not in it as compared to the saloon. And so with the increase of drinking comes an increase of murder. And it is a question whether the state itself is not, to some extent, responsible for the crime that emanates from the saloon.

We believe, however, that the country is awakening to the fact that cultivation of respect for law, and the will to enforce order, should be the first principle in a free government. This augurs well for a general reformatory movement that will strike at the root of the evil.

USE FOR ARMY AND NAVY.

The army and navy of this country should serve the people in time of war, is of course admitted by every thinking person; but that they should serve also in time of peace, does not seem to have occurred even to the minds of our statesmen. But why should not an army and navy that cost as much as the public schools be put to some profitable use?

The calling of the regular army into service for fighting the great forest fires in the Northwest, was an excellent movement; but we suspect that it was begun too late and was conducted too leisurely.

The situation has served to make very plain that the American army can be and should be used for other and better purposes than those of dress parade and military drill. The army could be used to advantage in various occupations, which would give the soldiers a far better preparation for actual service than if they were kept at the usual military routine.

We have in mind, in the first place, the forest and reclamation service; and we believe that almost the entire military force in the country should be used as forest rangers. The few men now in that service, and specially paid for it, should perhaps be retained; but with the entire military patrolling these vast but rapidly diminishing resources—all this goes on unchecked because there is no officer near to in-

struct the summer campers or to warn and arrest flagrant offenders.

Men otherwise highly civilized who for the first time go into the mountains for rest and recreation, often forget themselves and lose all restraint over their degradations upon the forests; they become veritable savages when they experience the freedom of city routine. We have known members of the legislature to take the lead in lighting bonfires and piling the wood high upon them for the mere, childish gratification of seeing a big blaze at night. We have known them to shoot at almost anything that flies or runs, and have seen them so ignorant as to suppose that every hawk, owl, waterfowl or lizard destroyed is to that extent a benefit to the country; whereas practically everything of this nature killed by them is a total loss to agriculture, to say nothing of the sentimental value of seeing something alive in this arid and largely lifeless region. Soldiers numerous posted among the forests and in the canyons could prevent this destruction and might educate campers as to the crime and folly of their most usual conduct in desecrating "God's first temples" the groves. For in the killing of creatures that are useless when dead and highly beneficial and interesting when permitted to live in their native haunts, men relapses as savages.

Of course the soldiers would first require to be trained in these matters; probably their own guns would have to be taken from them; otherwise they also might shoot at everything alive they happened to see. But with a little trouble they would be so trained and the country would then receive a vast advantage from the existence of its standing army.

There are a thousand reservoirs needed in the arid West for the irrigation of lands that cannot now be cultivated from lack of a rainfall sufficient for even dry farming; why not let the army take a hand and build some of these? Here is work for the "miners and sappers," for the army engineers and for all other departments. Even the artillery might sometimes be employed in battering out the solid rock, here we should see artillery practice that is not all wasted; for here the powder and ball would be doing something of value.

If the regular army is to be increased to 75,000 men, these men should be kept busy and should receive a useful training. Let them guard the forests, build the reservoirs, and control the mountain streams and canyon groves. They might also guard the treasure cars that are occasionally employed for the transmission of money.

The navy, too, might be similarly employed in helping to build the Panama canal principally by the transportation of supplies, and by rendering assistance in some of the work on the isthmus. If such a use should be made of the army and navy, there would be less objection to having them on so large a scale in a free country far removed from any formidable foe.

TAFT ON CONSERVATION.

There has been much hysteria over the plea for conservation of natural resources and it has been diverted from its original purpose to all things that should be conserved and protected. It was the small logical minds that had done this, the minds that are always working for universal uniformity. Such being the case, President Taft made a very timely and appropriate comment on the subject when, in his address at the Conservation congress at Minneapolis, he said:

"The time has come for a halt in general rhapsodies over conservation, making the word mean every known thing in the way of protection. All attention has been aroused, such appeals are of doubtful utility and do not direct the public to the specific course that the people should take, or have their legislators take, in order to promote the cause of conservation."

There has been altogether to much rhapsody and too little common sense about this conservation of natural resources agitation. The President has done the people a good turn in calling attention to it.

MINISTER RECALLED.

The Swedish minister at Washington, Baron Herman von Lagercrantz, is about to depart from that post, and speculation is rife as to what caused his recall. It has been said that he finds the cost of living in Washington too high. Also that he has business interests in Sweden, and he can better look after them when he is at home than when he is abroad. Finally, it has been said that the Baron has made himself persona non grata by seeming to take sides in American politics.

The latter refers to a speech he is said to have made, in which he referred to Mayor Gaynor as "the next president."

New York papers do not believe this could have given offense. Still, a Republican government might consider it highly improper for a foreign minister to forecast its overthrow and the establishment of a Democratic regime. It might very properly take exception to such a prophecy and intimate, through the proper channels of diplomacy, that recall would not be unwelcome.

The reason what it may, the departure of the Baron from Washington will be regretted by many of his personal friends. There will, of course, be no change in the relations between Washington and Stockholm.

HISTORICAL NOVELS.

One of the best ways, perhaps for most young people, the best of all ways, to read history, is to get it in the form of romance. Fortunately, it happens that there are many works of avowed fiction that teach more and, to the younger readers, true history than is usually found in the heavier historical works.

These reflections have come to the writer upon reading Mrs. Susa Young Gates' book entitled "John Stevens' Courtship." We had just happened to hear some of our leading educators suggest that for young boys Abbott's histories would take the place of certain wild stories of adventure, to which many bright-minded youth are es-

specially prone; that "Janice Meredith" and some of Churchill's novels give lifelike pictures of the conditions of the people at the time of the American Revolution; that the novel "If Youth But Knew," presents a clear, truthful, and impressive view of conditions in Europe at the time of the French Revolution; that "A Girl of the Limberlost," reveals to our young people in what a true education consists, etc., when this volume by a local writer chances to fall into our hands. It was reviewed a year ago in this paper, as it came from the press; but now we desire to add the appreciation which a closer reading enables us to give.

The book gives an account of social conditions in Utah at the time of the preposterous "invasion" by Johnson's army; and we believe that this picture, clearly and skilfully drawn, accurately represents those conditions without exaggeration and without apology.

As to the real value of that interesting psychological analysis of the feelings and friendship of the two girls for each other, we venture upon no opinion here, as these matters, we admit, are somewhat beyond our ken as to whether the consummate villainy of the army officer is not overdrawn, is also a detail that must fairly give us pause in our criticism; but as to the main theme and glow of this whole book, its candor, simplicity and charm, we cannot withhold our praise. That the daily life of the Pioneers was not at all dry or commonplace, and that it abounded in those phases of romance and in those perilous episodes for which youth hungers—all this is well portrayed and, as it were, proved by the very simplicity of this charming story of a romance that can hardly fail in its avowed purpose of awakening the soul of youth to an appreciation of the courage and strength of pioneer days and to a realization of the fact that there is plenty of romance and color in everyday life. John Stevens, the composite character, is nevertheless a good study in real life.

Young people will find in this book much information concerning the stirring incidents of the Echo Canyon War, as well as the elements of those ideals of character and purity that form part of the very creed and fiber of all that "Mormonism" means or has ever meant to those who have received it.

Every straight man is a foe of crooks.

The drinking habit is usually water-proof.

A poor showing—a charity entertainment.

The mice will play when the trap's away.

When roses are without thorns then will Pittsburgh be without smoke.

The public jury never recommends a "judy killer" to the mercy of the court.

One can imagine an actress wearing a darned stocking but a ballet girl never!

All the cranks in the country can't put Colonel Roosevelt in the Anasias club by calling him a "lair."

In his western campaign Colonel Roosevelt is not using his celebrated African charger, Tranquillity.

General Stewart L. Woodford seems to take to royalty like ducks to water, when, in his address at the Conservation congress at Minneapolis, he said:

"The Colonels great activity is all the result of the sleeping sickness that he contracted in the jungles of Africa."

A parachute girl suddenly and unexpectedly dropped into Mr. John D. Rockefeller's door yard. That beats the visit of a hour all to pieces.

The French ministry of war is buying aeroplanes. It proposes that in the next war France shall be prepared to sail into her antagonist from the start.

Germany is having designed a smaller warship, modeled after the old style Monitors. The armament will consist of two 167-ton guns each capable of throwing a projectile of 5,950 pounds.

The British cruiser Lion, which has just been launched, will only be able to throw 10,400 pounds of projectile from all her eight 13.5-ton guns. This probably means an almost complete revolution in battleship building, just as the appearance of ironclad did. These new warships should be a relief financially to a big navy idea burdened people. The experiment will be watched by the whole world, and it is well worth watching.

The latter refers to a speech he is said to have made, in which he referred to Mayor Gaynor as "the next president."

The former who pushed himself forward to the platform at Fargo and called Mr. Roosevelt a liar, may have thought that by so doing he served some great cause. Many cranks are laboring under that delusion. But he belongs to a dangerous class. He belongs to the class from which the assassins of presidents and public men come. The nets of such cranks are influenced by the agitation that has for its only aim, destruction. There are many of them in the world today. They take advantage of the rights and privileges conferred upon them by free institutions and use these for the gratification of their own selfish, and sickly, cravings, instead of for the benefit of their fellow-men. They are the camp-followers of the army of liberty and progress, always ready for plunder, but never at the front when the battle is on.

The Swift Come Back.

"I never saw the captain show cowardice but once."

"When was that?"

"I don't know."

"Well, in the last engagement when the enemy's aviator began to drop his bombs I saw the captain put on his cap."

"Cleveland Plain Dealer."

Good Reasons.

A clergyman who believes in advertising says there will be baseball in heaven.

At the same time there are many good reasons for believing that a blighted sight better team can be organized in the other place.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Cutler Twenties."

Please note the suits: A light figured brown with a small stripe; both made by a well known Rochester firm.

That is the way our prices run; always lowest for the best qualities.

Suits \$15 to \$35

Cutler's

36 MAIN ST.

less is it the language of a man seeking to avoid re-entrance on public life.

The Commoner.

It looks like Roosevelt expected to be a candidate in 1912. Some of his enthusiastic friends have been talking about him but there was nothing to support their prognosis until the confidential friends, who visited him after the turn down for chairman, announced that he will be a candidate only if it is necessary to do so in order to carry out his policies.

London Spectator.

In the United States there are reports that Roosevelt will be nominated to heal the breach in the Republican party by a surgical operation. According to one report, Mr. Taft will rid himself of those associates who are disliked by the insurgents. This would mean the disappearance of Mr. Ballinger, the secretary of the interior, who represents the policy of conservation, and Mr. Aldrich, who represents the policy of laissez faire.

It is believed that Roosevelt would keep deliberately out of the speakership. According to other reports, Mr. Roosevelt is taking the side of the insurgents against Mr. Taft. Such statements may be rejected. We do not believe for a moment that Mr. Roosevelt would dream of being disposed of to Mr. Taft. The only thing that is likely to happen is that Roosevelt will be asked to speak at the convention, giving his views on the insurgents' desire for several reasonable alterations in the Republican machinery, is helping to bring about an understanding. If he succeeds, the Republican party would be enormously strengthened. That would not be disastrous, but the greatest service he could render to Mr. Taft.

The Outlook.

If the Republican party desires success, it will not secure it through the mere retirement of these men. The present public unrest is not a clamor for vengeance on any individual or individuals. It is not demand for the heads of victims. It is rather a demand for a concrete application of such a policy. The retirement of Secretary Ballinger, of Senator Aldrich, of Speaker Cannon, is not enough. What the people want to see is a man in Secretary Ballinger's place who is an enthusiastic believer in conservation and an efficient administrator of conservation policies. A man who will withstand the pressure of private interests, and will vote for laws in the interest of the public; and in Speaker Cannon's place a man who will oppose parliamentary oligarchy and further methods of legislation in accord with his spirit of popular self-government.

The Congregationalist.

The President of the United States and the responsible head of the party finds himself confronted, not only with the difficult task of harmonizing a divided party, but with an apparent rival ship which is an impeachment of his authority. The party cannot have two supreme leaders—much less two leaders who are drifting apart. The situation as it stands is unprecedented in our history. It will become even more unfamiliar and distasteful to sober-minded Americans if the party in power is divided on the question of personal allegiance to the President or to an ex-President of the United States. That will seem to many of us a step toward the politics which have sometimes characterized the Spanish-American republics.

Only a Check.

"A woman is a better talker than a man," said Harry Lehr at a dinner in Newport. "A woman can say in one neat, graceful phrase more than a man could pack in a paragraph."

—stood in a railroad station the other day, and on all sides wives, about to start for seashore and country, were taking leave of their husbands. I heard one really charming wife say, as she held her husband's hand:

"Good-by, dear. Don't forget to write."

"No, no! I'll write often, he replied earnestly.

"Yes, do, if it's only a check," said she.—Washington Star.

Stage Snow in Spring.

In a play called "1812" in which Napoleon's crossing of a frozen river is shown with snow falling, the last act shows an old soldier's return home. It is springtime, there are roses climbing up the trees, and the old hero sits in a chair in a cozy room with all the windows open. But, much to the spectators' amusement, snow continues to fall. Not only outside the room but inside it. The actor who played the old soldier noted the oddness of the snow and, account for the snow, he begged "Pay no attention to the snow," he said to his stage wife. "It's a habit I contracted in Russia."—M. A. P.

One Weak Spot in the Scheme.

"You ought to have your car equipped with demountable rims," said an automobile man to Richard G. Jenkins, the other day. "All you have to do is carry an extra rim with inflated tire. In case of a puncture it can easily be attached by a 12-year-old child in two minutes."

"Yes," said Mr. Jenkins, "but the trouble is to find a 12-year-old child."—Newark News.